National Informatics Centre

*368. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new department called the National Informatics Centre has been established to centralise data collection regarding various Governmental activities;

(b) if so, the details of the set-up of this Centre; and

(c) whether this Centre would also take over the functions of the Central Statistical Organisation, the statistical departments of other Ministries, and the bodies preparing the wholesale price index and the consumer price index?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been in existence since 1975 under the Department of Electronics. In March 1988, it was transferred to the Planning Commission. The basic objective of the Centre is to create a nation-wise computer-communication infrastructure linking various Departments of the Central Government, the State Governments/Union Territories and the District Administrations. The primary responsibility of NIC is to promote appropriate computerisation and to facilitate processing and retrieval of information for decision support, on-line Plan Project information and to assist or carry out analysis and modelling studies utilising the data bases created on the computer.

(c) No, Sir.

Appointment of Anomaly Committee regarding disparity in Pay Scales of Pharmacists

*369. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had appointed an Anomaly Committee to remove the disparity between the pay scale of the Central Government Pharmacists and the Union Territory Administrations' Pharmacists;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) whether Government had decided to extend the recommendations of Fourth Central Pay Commission made in respect of the Central Government Pharmacist to the Union Territory Administstrations' Pharmacists ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised pay-scales for Pharmacists in Union Territory Administrations should be the same as for Pharmacists in Central Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Incentives for adopting Family Planning

*370. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the incentives provided to those adopting family planning in the unorganised sector; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to encourage the motivators and the doctors under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Government of India does not give any incentives to persons in the unorganised sector for adopting Family Planning. However, a sum of Rs. 100/- and Rs. 9/- is paid to all acceptors of sterilisation and IUD respectively on account of loss of wages. Some States/UTs give monetary incentives and lottery tickets to acceptors of sterilisation; some States give bonds, certificates to couples undergoing sterilisations after two or more female children; and in some States Green Cards are also given to acceptors of sterilisation with two or less than 2 number of children entitling them to certain benefits, priorities and concessions as may be decided upon by the State Government concerned.

(b) Private medical practitioners who are members of Indian Medical Association/National Integrated Medicine Association are entitled to claim upto Rs. 50/- for each case of sterilisation and Rs. 5/- for each case of IUD insertion. Some States give motivation money to doctors and motivators. No fresh incentives to encourage doctors and motivators undertaking the programme are under consideration.

Production of Low-cost Calf Embryos

*371. SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Scientists at the UK Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics Research have found the means to produce low-cost calf embryos, as reported in the Indian Dairyman (New Delhi) of October, 1988 ; and

(b) whether Government propose to import this Technology like the imports of Foot and Mouth Vaccine Technoogy from the U.K. to save high investments on Calf Embryos Technology Mission and thereby create a White Milk Revolution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Scientists at the U.K. Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics Research have developed a method to produce low-cost embryos for beef as reported in the Indian Dairyman (New Delhi) of Oct. 88.

(b) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration with the Govt. of India because indigenous technology relevant to our own needs and circumstances is being developed and is progressing well.

Development of Remote Pilotless Vehicles

*372. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries which have developed or are engaged in developing Remote Pilotless Vehicles (RPVs) ;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps towards the development of Unmanned aircraft in the country ; if so, what progress has been made in this direction ; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above to be in the negative, whether Government propose to develop such an aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) As per the available published information, some of the countries which have developed or are engaged